

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A security system, comprising:
 a) a flashlight for selectively emitting a beam of light, said flashlight including:

1) a video camera, having an optical axis generally along said beam of light, for converting an image received along said optical axis into an electronic image;

2) a transmitter, coupled to said video camera, for broadcasting said electronic image as a broadcast image; and

3) a power cell, coupled to said video camera and to said transmitter, for providing operating power such that said flashlight is portable; and

b) a remote unit, including:

1) a receiver for receiving said broadcast image and converting it back to said electronic image; and

2) at least one of the following:

i) a monitor, coupled to said receiver, for displaying said electronic image as said image; and

ii) a recorder, coupled to said receiver, for recording said electronic image in a format suitable for recovery of said image at a later time.

2. The security system of claim 1 wherein said remote unit comprises only said recorder.

3. The security system of claim 1 wherein said remote unit is installed in a passenger vehicle.

4. The security system of claim 3 wherein said remote unit comprises said recorder, and said recorder is installed in a locked compartment of said passenger vehicle.

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5. The security system of claim 1 wherein said flashlight includes an on/off switch and is operable independently of said video camera.

6. The security system of claim 1 wherein said video camera includes an on/off switch and is operable independently of said flashlight.

7. The security system of claim 1 wherein said flashlight further includes a microphone, coupled to said transmitter, for converting sounds from a region near said flashlight into audio signals, wherein said transmitter broadcasts said audio signals as audio data and wherein said receiver converts said audio data into said audio signals and wherein said monitor audiblizes said audio signals.

8. The security system of claim 7 wherein said remote unit includes said monitor.

9. The security system of claim 8 wherein said monitor audiblizes said audio signals concurrent with display of said electronic image.

SUB BY 10. The security system of claim 7 wherein said remote unit includes a repeater, coupled to said receiver, for rebroadcasting said broadcast image and said audio data to other receivers.

11. A security system, comprising:
a) a flashlight, having an optical axis, for selectively emitting a beam of light along said optical axis, said flashlight including:

1) a video camera for converting an image along said optical axis into an electronic image;

2) a transmitter, coupled to said video camera, for broadcasting said electronic image as a broadcast image; and

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1 3) a power cell, coupled to said video
2 camera and to said transmitter, for providing
3 operating power such that said flashlight is
4 portable; and

5 b) a remote unit, including:

6 1) a receiver for receiving said broadcast
7 image and converting it back to said electronic
8 image; and

9 2) a recorder, coupled to said receiver,
10 for recording said electronic image in a format
11 suitable for recovery of said image at a later time.

1 12. A method for providing security to an area,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 broadcasting a series of real-time images with
4 accompanying audio signals, from a flashlight for emitting a
5 flashlight beam, said flashlight having an integrated video
6 camera and microphone coupled to a transmitter, said video
7 camera defining an optical axis generally along said
8 flashlight beam wherein said series of real-time images are
9 captured by said integrated video camera;

10 receiving said series of real-time images and audio
11 signals at a remote receiver; and

12 capturing said series of real-time images by selecting at
13 least one of the following steps:

14 displaying said series of real-time images
15 on a monitor coupled to said receiver while
16 concurrently audiblizing said audio signals; and

17 recording said series of real-time images
18 in a format suitable for recovery of said real-time
19 images at a later time.

1 13. A method for providing security to an area,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 equipping a security officer, associated with a security
4 team, with a flashlight constructed for emitting a beam of
5 light;

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6 broadcasting a series of real-time images with
7 accompanying audio signals from said flashlight, wherein said
8 flashlight includes an integrated wireless video camera and
9 microphone coupled to a transmitter, and wherein said series
10 of real-time images are captured by said integrated video
11 camera from a field-of-view along an optical axis oriented
12 generally along said beam of light;

13 receiving said series of real-time images and audio
14 signals at a receiver operated at a remote location wherein a
15 team member of said security officer is located; and

16 capturing said series of real-time images by selecting at
17 least one of the following steps:

18 1) displaying to said team member said series
19 of real-time images by use of a monitor coupled to
20 said receiver, and audiblizing said audio signals to
21 said team member while displaying said series of
22 real-time images; and

23 2) recording, by use of a recorder coupled to
24 said receiver, said series of real-time images in a
25 format for later recovery and display by said team
26 member.

1 SUB 14. The security providing method of claim 13
2 further comprising the steps of:

3 rebroadcasting said series of real-time images and audio
4 signals by use of a repeater coupled to said receiver;

5 receiving said rebroadcast series of real-time images and
6 audio signals by use of a second receiver operated at a second
7 remote wherein a second team member of said security officer
8 is located;

9 displaying to said second team member said series of
10 real-time images by use of a second monitor coupled to said
11 second receiver; and

12 audiblizing said audio signals to said second team member
13 while displaying said series of real-time images.

1 15. The security providing method of claim 13
2 further comprising the steps of:

3 narrating, by said security officer, said series of real-
4 time images to provide a narration as part of said audio
5 signals; and

6 recording, by use of a recorder coupled to said receiver,
7 said series of real-time images and said narration.

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